



MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: September 18, 2019

Agenda Item: DRAFT Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 Min

Background: As a condition of administering the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, every five years Montana must develop a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to guide the management of outdoor recreation resources. The SCORP identifies outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance and challenges facing the state's outdoor recreation and natural resources; evaluates demand for public outdoor recreation preferences; evaluates supply of and demand for outdoor recreation facilities and resources; establishes priorities based on outreach efforts, data research, and relevant plans; coordinates recreation management and planning initiatives with federal programs, and other state, regional, and local plans; and assesses the recreation value of wetlands to identify outdoor recreation opportunities.

The University of Montana was involved in data collection for the 2014-2018 SCORP plan. Given this history, State Parks approached UM to update and draft SCORP 2020-2024. This new SCORP is considered an update of the 2014-2018 plan.

The 2020-2024 SCORP has the following goals and recommendations:

- 1. Promote Outdoor Recreation Opportunities for All Montanans**
- 2. Enhance Public Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities**
- 3. Support Economic Vitality of Communities and the State**
- 4. Improve Quality of Life through Outdoor Recreation Experiences**
- 5. Adapt Outdoor Recreation for a Changing Environment**
- 6. Honor Montana's Outdoor Legacy**

One historic use of the plan is to prioritize funding to local community recreation projects throughout the state. The plan provides the strategic framework to identify trends and issues and provide recommendations for outdoor recreation priorities.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The University of Montana held three facilitated group discussions sessions in March of 2019. These sessions were held in Billings, Butte and Kalispell and were attended by over 150 members of the public. The purpose of the meetings was to ask outdoor recreation leaders to identify the needs, demands, and vision for outdoor recreation in the state. Results from the facilitated group discussions and other relevant recreation related data were incorporated into goals and recommendations. The SCORP Advisory Committee, representing the diversity of outdoor recreation interests in the state, discussed, edited, and finalized all goals and recommendations. The Parks Division will be putting the DRAFT SCORP report out for a 30-day public comment period starting on September 16, 2019

Alternatives and Analysis: N/A

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: N/A

Proposed Motion: N/A